



# Youth Bill of Rights

It is the policy of the state of California that when you are housed in a facility of the Division of Juvenile Justice you have the following rights:

**You have the right to live in a safe, healthy, and clean environment, where you are:**

- treated with dignity and respect.
- free from physical, sexual, emotional, or other abuse, or corporal punishment.
- given fair and equal access to all available services, placement, care, treatment and benefits.
- not discriminated against or harassed because of your actual or perceived race, ethnic group identification, ancestry, national origin, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental or physical disability, or HIV status.

**You also have the right to the following services:**

- healthy food and clean water.
- an age-appropriate education program that meets state law requirements, to attend school classes and vocational training, and continue to receive educational services while on disciplinary or medical status.
- age-appropriate regular physical exercise and recreation, including time spent outdoors.
- clean clothing that fits and is appropriate for the weather, and sufficient personal hygiene items.
- religious services and activities of your choice.
- adequate and appropriate medical, dental, vision, and mental health services.
- you may refuse to take psychotropic and other medications (unless the law says otherwise or it is immediately necessary to prevent serious bodily harm or death).

**You have the right to not be disciplined or punished by:**

- being deprived of food, sleep, exercise, education, or pillows and blankets.
- being prevented from having contact with your parents, guardians, or attorneys, or from sending and receiving mail.
- being restricted from a daily shower, drinking water, a toilet, or reading material.
- being restricted from religious services or medical services.
- being searched for the purpose of harassment or humiliation, or as a form of discipline or punishment.

**You have the right to have regular contact through frequent visits, telephone calls, and mail with:**

- your parents, guardians, siblings, children, and other adults to whom you are related.
- adults you are not related to but who you have a family or mentoring relationship with, such as godparents, clergy, teachers, neighbors, and family friends.

You have the right to make and receive confidential telephone calls, send and receive confidential mail, and have confidential visits with:

- attorneys and people working with them, and legal services organizations.
- ombudspersons and other advocates.
- holders of public office, and people who work at a state or federal court.

**You have a right to the following resources if you are on parole:**

- a prompt hearing to determine if there is enough evidence to hold you for a parole violation.
- an attorney to represent you at probable cause hearings.

**You have other rights as follows:**

- to attend all of your court hearings.
- to make at least two free telephone calls within an hour of arriving at a facility of the Division of Juvenile Justice.
- to receive a comprehensive orientation at the facility where you are placed, including a copy of your rights.
- to contact attorneys, ombudspersons and other advocates, and representatives of state or local agencies, regarding conditions of confinement or violations of rights, and to be free from retaliation for making these contacts or complaints.
- to have your complaints reviewed by the Office of the Ombudsman, or referred for investigation to another agency, and to receive a response in writing within 15 days of receipt of your complaint.

You can find information about these rights in your Youth Rights Handbook or by speaking with your counselor or any other staff in the Division of Juvenile Justice.

For questions or concerns about these rights, youth may contact the Office of the Ombudsman by calling the following number from any payphone inside a DJJ facility: 916-322-7166.